

## **Text of Budget Sub 5's Agenda Item on the Toll Road**

**SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5 ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFO TECH**

**MAY 3, 2006**

### ***Issue 5: the Toll Road formerly known as "San Onofre State Beach"***

The Orange County Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) has proposed a sixteen-mile extension of Route 241 (toll road) from Orange to San Diego Counties that would essentially bisect the entire length of San Onofre State Beach. (See map on page 14)

San Onofre State Beach was created by Executive Order by President Nixon and is on land that the Department of Parks and Recreation leases from the federal government. San Onofre State Beach adjoins the Camp Pendleton U.S. Marine Corps Base

San Onofre State Beach is the sixth most visited park in the State Park System.

While Caltrans is not the lead agency in the proposed expansion project (the TCA is the lead), the department does play a roll in the reviewing and approving of the construction plans.

### ***Comments:***

1. San Onofre includes world famous beaches, natural preserves, endangered species, and campgrounds used by families seeking low cost vacation sites.

With the creation of the State Beach in 1971, Governor Regan said in part, "This is a momentous and proud day for California...This expanse of acreage, San Onofre Bluffs State Beach, now has its future guaranteed as an official state park."

But Reagan went on to warn, "As stewards of this land, we must use it judiciously and with a great sense of responsibility."

Caltrans should report at the hearing whether the building of a toll road through the San Onofre State Beach is a judicious and responsible use of the State Beach.

2. Caltrans should also report on the Caltrans exact role in the proposed project and what powers the state has in stopping the project under current law.
3. The subcommittee should consider approving each of the following:
  - a. Approve Trailer Bill Language amending the authorizing statute of the TCA to prohibit their authority to build a toll road through San Onofre State Beach.
  - b. Approve Trailer Bill Language amending the Public Resources Code prohibiting the construction of a private toll road through the San Onofre State Beach.

- c. Increase Caltrans budget by \$450,000 (State Highway Account) to provide reimbursement to the University of California to conduct an independent study to identify alternatives for relieving traffic congestion to the proposed extension of the 241 toll road through the San Onofre State Beach.

